

# **Alabama State Board of Social Work Examiners**



## **Functional Analysis & Records Disposition Authority**

**Revision  
Presented to the  
State Records Commission  
April 29, 2009**

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# Functional and Organizational Analysis of the Alabama State Board of Social Work Examiners

## Sources of Information

- Representatives of the Alabama State Board of Social Work Examiners
- Code of Alabama 1975 § 34-30-50 through § 34-30-58
- Alabama Government Manual (2006), p. 541
- Alabama Administrative Code Chapters 850-X-1 through 850-X-10
- Government Records Division, State Agency Files (1989-ongoing)

## Agency Organization

The Alabama State Board of Social Work Examiners consists of seven members appointed by the governor. Four members are licensed certified social workers, two are licensed graduate social workers, and one is a licensed bachelor social worker. At least one member must be a minority. The term of office is three years and members are limited to two consecutive terms. The board annually elects a chairman, a vice-chairman, and a secretary, and meets twice each year or as necessary. An executive director is appointed by the board and can hire necessary personnel. An organizational chart is attached.

## Agency Function and Subfunctions

The mandated function of the Alabama State Board of Social Work Examiners is to license social workers in the state. The board is one of the agencies primarily involved in carrying out the regulatory function of Alabama government.

In the performance of its mandated function, the board may engage in the following subfunctions:

- **Promulgating Rules and Regulations.** The board creates rules and regulations for social workers pursuant to state administrative procedures and can modify and amend their regulations regarding the licensing and monitoring of social workers. The board also establishes requirements and standards for continuing education. To do this, the board consults with organizations and groups that represent social workers. In addition, fees for examination, licensure, certification, and renewal are established by the board.
- **Licensing.** The Alabama State Board of Social Work Examiners issues licenses for bachelor social workers (defined as a licensee with a baccalaureate degree in social work), graduate social workers (defined as a licensee with a master or a doctor degree in social work), and certified social workers (defined as a licensee with a master or a doctor degree in social work plus at least two [2] years of postgraduate continuing supervision). The board also certifies social workers for private independent social work. Applicants must meet basic requirements in addition to the requirements for the particular license.

An application fee is collected from applicants when they apply. The board reviews and verifies the applications and issues licenses to qualified applicants who pass a certification exam created by a nationwide organization. If an applicant fails the exam, the exam may be taken again. Licenses must be renewed every two years. Applicants for renewal must show proof of continuing education. The board may request verification of continuing education prior to renewal of the license.

- **Investigating Complaints or Violations.** The board monitors licensees by reviewing written complaints against individuals. A member of the board works with an investigator to verify the complaint. If the investigation indicates a violation of the regulations of the board, the individual against whom the complaint is made has 90 days to disclaim or rectify the allegations. If there is evidence of a violation, the board may hold an administrative hearing where attempts to rectify the situation are made, or the board may recommend the case to the appropriate district attorney for prosecution of the violations.
- **Administering Internal Operations.** A significant portion of the agency's work includes general administrative, financial, and personnel activities performed to support its programmatic areas including:

**Managing the Agency:** Activities include internal office management activities common to most government agencies such as corresponding and communicating, scheduling, meeting, documenting policy and procedures, reporting, litigating, legislating (drafting, tracking), publicizing and providing information, managing records, and managing information systems and technology.

**Managing Finances:** Activities include budgeting (preparing and reviewing budget package, submitting the budget package to the Department of Finance, documenting amendments and performance of the budget); purchasing (requisitioning and purchasing supplies and equipment, receipting and invoicing for goods, and authorizing payment for products received); accounting for the expenditure, encumbrance, disbursement, and reconciliation of funds within the agency's budget through a uniform system of accounting and reporting; authorizing travel; contracting with companies or individuals; bidding for products and services; and assisting in the audit process.

**Managing Human Resources:** Activities include recruiting and hiring eligible individuals to fill positions within the agency; providing compensation to employees; providing benefits to employees such as leave, health insurance, unemployment compensation, worker's compensation, injury compensation, retirement, and death benefits; supervising employees by evaluating performance, granting leave, and monitoring the accumulation of leave; training and providing continuing education for employees; and disciplining.

**Managing Properties, Facilities, and Resources:** Activities include inventorying and accounting for non-consumable property and reporting property information to

the appropriate authority; leasing and/or renting offices or facilities; providing security for property managed by the agency; insuring property; and assigning, inspecting and maintaining agency property, including vehicles.

# Analysis of Record Keeping System and Records Appraisal of the Alabama State Board of Social Work Examiners

## Agency Record Keeping System

The Alabama State Board of Social Work Examiners currently operates a hybrid record keeping system composed of paper and electronic records.

**Paper-based Systems:** Most of the agency's records are maintained in paper format and stored on-site.

**Electronic Systems:** The board staff utilizes several PCs for word processing purposes and maintains a licensure database for licensed social workers. The database is hosted and backed up by the Information Service Division of the Department of Finance.

## Records Appraisal

The following is a discussion of the two major categories of records created and/or maintained by the Alabama State Board of Social Work Examiners: Temporary Records and Permanent Records.

**I. Temporary Records.** Temporary records should be held for what is considered to be their active life and disposed of once all fiscal, legal and administrative requirements have been met. Some of the temporary records created by the agency are discussed below:

- **License Number Issuance Reference Book.** This book is created and used by the board staff to prevent dual issuance of license numbers. Information includes license number, name of licensee, and date of issuance. The board maintains this book for reference.
- **Substantiated Disciplinary Files.** When an investigation of a social worker ends with the discovery of a violation, further action must be taken. These files document the investigations that discover violations. The board maintains this series for a long period of time because these files may be referenced when the inactive licensee re-applies for license.
- **Unsubstantiated Disciplinary Files.** When an investigation of a social worker ends without the discovery of a violation, it is closed, and no further action is taken. These files document the investigation. They have administrative value only for a short period of time.
- **Meeting Packets.** Items included in meeting packet are basically duplicate copies of documents which are scheduled in the licensure files for a retention of 5 years after the end of the fiscal year in which the license becomes inactive. In accordance with a guideline issued by the State Records Commission at its meeting on November 5, 2008, the board is authorized to establish a separate retention for meeting packets if the board's

meeting minutes fully document the board's decisions and contents of meeting packets are duplicated in other records series that have an approved retention. The board recommends that this series be maintained for 3 years after the end of the fiscal year in which the records were created.

**II. Permanent Records.** The Government Records Division recommends the following records as permanent.

### **Promulgating Rules and Regulations**

- **Meeting Agendas and Minutes of the Board.** The board's meeting agendas and minutes are the core documentation of the agency. These records are necessary to document the board's approval of applicants, its issuance of licenses, and the results of investigations. The names of approved applicants are found in the minutes. **(Bibliographic Title: Meeting Minutes)**
- **Informational Publications.** These publications document the agency's efforts in communicating with the public regarding social work education and practice, licensure procedures, and other board related services. Publications include, but are not limited to, newsletters and the board's rules and regulations. **(Bibliographic Title: Informational Publications)**

### **Licensing**

- **Annual Roster of Licensed Social Workers.** These records (in a PDF format) are generated annually from the licensure database. This series is necessary to document information such as who is licensed in Alabama, as well as statistical data for any specific year. **(Bibliographic Title: Annual Rosters)**

### **Administering Internal Operations**

- **Website.** The board has a web site at [www.socialwork.alabama.gov](http://www.socialwork.alabama.gov). Information on the site includes laws and rules, various forms, board members, and newsletters. The standard disposition for agency website is to preserve a complete copy of website annually or as often as significant changes are made. **(Bibliographic Title: Website)**

# **Permanent Records List**

## **Alabama State Board of Social Work Examiners**

### **Promulgating Rules and Regulations**

1. Meeting Agendas and Minutes of the Board
2. Informational Publications

### **Licensing**

1. Annual Roster of Licensed Social Workers

### **Administering Internal Operations**

1. Website



# **Alabama State Board of Social Work Examiners Records Disposition Authority**

This Records Disposition Authority (RDA) is issued by the State Records Commission under the authority granted by the Code of Alabama 1975 § 41-13-5 and § 41-13-20 through 21. It was compiled by the Government Records Division, Alabama Department of Archives and History (ADAH), which serves as the commission's staff, in cooperation with representatives of Alabama State Board of Social Work Examiners. The RDA lists records created and maintained by the Alabama State Board of Social Work Examiners in carrying out its mandated functions and activities. It establishes retention periods and disposition instructions for those records and provides the legal authority for the department to implement records destruction.

Alabama law requires public officials to create and maintain records that document the business of their offices. These records must be protected from "mutilation, loss, or destruction," so that they may be transferred to an official's successor in office and made available to members of the public. Records must also be kept in accordance with auditing standards approved by the Examiners of Public Accounts (Code of Alabama 1975 § 36-12-2, § 36-12-4, and § 41-5-23). For assistance in implementing this RDA, or for advice on records disposition or other records management concerns, contact the ADAH Government Records Division at (334) 242-4452.

## **Explanation of Records Requirements**

- This RDA supersedes any previous records disposition schedules governing the retention of the Alabama State Board of Social Work Examiners' records. Copies of superseded schedules are no longer valid and should be discarded.
- The RDA establishes retention and disposition instructions for records listed below, regardless of the medium on which those records may be kept. Electronic mail, for example, is a communications tool that may record permanent or temporary information. As for records in any other format, the retention periods for e-mail records are governed by the requirements of the subfunctions to which the records belong.
- Some temporary records listed under the Administering Internal Operations subfunction of this RDA represent duplicate copies of records listed for long-term or permanent retention in the RDAs of other agencies.
- Certain records and records-related materials need not be retained as records under the disposition requirements in this RDA. Such materials include: (1) duplicate record copies that do not require official action, so long as the creating office maintains the original record for the period required; (2) catalogs, trade journals, and other publications received that require no action and do not document government activities; (3) stocks of blank stationery, blank forms, or other surplus materials that are not subject to audit and have become obsolete; (4) transitory records, which are temporary records created for short-term, internal purposes that may include, but are not limited to: telephone call-back messages; drafts of ordinary documents not needed for their evidential value; copies of

material sent for information purposes but not needed by the receiving office for future business; and internal communications about social activities; and (5) honorary materials, plaques, awards, presentations, certificates, and gifts received or maintained by the agency staff.. They may be disposed of without documentation of destruction.

## **Records Disposition Requirements**

This section of the RDA is arranged by subfunctions of the Alabama State Board of Social Work Examiners and lists the groups of records created and/or maintained by the board as a result of activities and transactions performed in carrying out these subfunctions. The board may submit requests to revise specific records disposition requirements to the State Records Commission for consideration at its regular quarterly meetings.

### **Promulgating Rules and Regulations**

#### **MEETING AGENDAS AND MINUTES OF THE BOARD**

Disposition: PERMANENT RECORD.

#### **INFORMATIONAL PUBLICATIONS**

Disposition: PERMANENT RECORD.

#### **Meeting Packets**

Disposition: Temporary Record. Retain 3 years after the end of the fiscal year in which the records were created.

#### **Printouts of Acknowledgment from the Secretary of State Relating to Notices of Meetings Posted by State Agencies**

Disposition: Temporary Record. Retain 3 years.

#### **REGISTER OF ADMINISTRATIVE RULES**

Disposition: PERMANENT RECORD. Retain in office (Code of Alabama 1975 § 41-22-6).

### **Licensing**

#### **ANNUAL ROSTER OF LICENSED SOCIAL WORKERS**

Disposition: PERMANENT RECORD.

#### **Application for License Files**

Disposition: Temporary Record. Retain 5 years after the end of the fiscal year in which the applicant becomes inactive.

#### **Social Workers Licensure Files**

Disposition: Temporary Record. Retain 5 years after the end of the fiscal year in which the license becomes inactive.

**Social Workers Licensure Database**

Disposition: Temporary Record. Retain for useful life.

**License Number Issuance Reference Book**

Disposition: Temporary Record. Retain for useful life.

**Investigating Complaints or Violations****Substantiated Disciplinary Files**

Disposition: Temporary Record. Retain 10 years after the end of the fiscal year in which the license becomes inactive.

**Unsubstantiated Disciplinary Files**

Disposition: Temporary Record. Retain 7 years after the end of the fiscal year in which the records were created.

**Administering Internal Operations: Managing the Agency****WEBSITE**

Disposition: PERMANENT RECORD. Preserve a complete copy of website annually or as often as significant changes are made.

**Board Appointment Letters**

Disposition: Temporary Record. Retain 5 years after the end of the fiscal year in which the term expires.

**Routine Correspondence**

Disposition: Temporary Record. Retain 3 years after the end of the fiscal year in which the records were created.

**Administrative Reference Files**

Disposition: Temporary Record. Retain for useful life.

**Records documenting the implementation of the agency's approved RDA (copies of transmittals forms to Archives or State Records Center, evidence of obsolete records destroyed, and annual reports to State Records Commission)**

Disposition: Temporary Record. Retain 3 years after the end of the fiscal year in which the records were created.

**Copies of Approved RDA**

Disposition: Temporary Record. Retain 3 years after the end of the fiscal year in which the RDA is superseded.

**Computer systems documentation (hardware/software manuals and diskettes, warranties)**

Disposition: Temporary Record. Retain documentation of former system 3 years after the end of the fiscal year in which the former hardware and software no longer exists anywhere in the agency and all permanent records have been migrated to a new system.

**Administering Internal Operations: Managing Finances**

**Records documenting the preparation of a budget request package and reporting of the status of funds, requesting amendments of allotments, and reporting program performance**

Disposition: Temporary Record. Retain 3 years after the end of the fiscal year in which the records were created.

**Records documenting the requisitioning and purchasing of supplies and equipment, receipting and invoicing for goods, and authorizing payment for products**

Disposition: Temporary Record. Retain 3 years after the end of the fiscal year in which the records were created.

**Records of original entry or routine accounting transactions, such as journals, registers, and ledgers, and records of funds deposited outside the state treasury**

Disposition: Temporary Record. Retain 3 years after the end of the fiscal year in which the records were created.

**Records documenting requests for authorization from supervisors to travel on official business and other related materials, such as travel reimbursement forms and itineraries**

Disposition: Temporary Record. Retain 3 years after the end of the fiscal year in which the records were created.

**Records documenting contracts for services or personal property**

Disposition: Temporary Record. Retain 6 years after expiration of the contract.

**Records documenting the bid process, including requests for proposals and unsuccessful responses**

- a. Original Bid Records Maintained in the Purchasing Office of the Agency for Contracts over \$7500  
Disposition: Temporary Record. Retain 7 years after the end of the fiscal year in which the bids were opened.
- b. Duplicate copies of bid (where originals are maintained by the Finance Department - Division of Purchasing)  
Disposition: Temporary Record. Retain 3 years after the end of the fiscal year in which the bids were opened.

**Audit Reports**

Disposition: Temporary Record. Retain 6 years after end of the fiscal year in which the records were created.

## **Administering Internal Operations: Managing Human Resources**

### **Position Classification Files**

Disposition: Temporary Record. Retain 4 years after position is reclassified.

### **Application Materials**

Disposition: Temporary Record. Retain 1 year.

### **Records documenting payroll (e.g. pre-payroll reports, payroll check registers)**

Disposition: Temporary Record. Retain 3 years after the end of the fiscal year in which the records were created.

### **Records documenting payroll deduction authorizations**

Disposition: Temporary Record. Retain 6 years after separation of the employee from the agency.

### **Records documenting payroll deductions for tax purposes (including Form 941)**

Disposition: Temporary Record. Retain 3 years after the end of the fiscal year in which the records were created.

### **Records documenting an employee's work history - generally maintained as a case file**

Disposition: Temporary Record. Retain 6 years after separation of employee from the agency.

### **Records documenting employees' daily and weekly work schedules**

Disposition: Temporary Record. Retain 3 years after the end of the fiscal year in which the records were created.

### **Records documenting an employee's hours worked, leave earned, and leave taken (including time sheets)**

Disposition: Temporary Record. Retain 3 years after the end of the fiscal year in which the records were created.

### **Records documenting sick leave donations**

Disposition: Temporary Record. Retain 3 years after the end of the fiscal year in which the records were created.

### **Records of final leave status (cumulative leave)**

Disposition: Temporary Record. Retain 6 years after separation of employee from the agency.

### **Employee Flexible Benefits Plan Files**

- a. General information  
Disposition: Temporary Record. Retain until superseded.
- b. Other (applications, correspondence)  
Disposition: Temporary Record. Retain 6 years.

**State Employee Injury Compensation Trust Fund Files**

Disposition: Temporary Record. Retain 6 years after separation of the employee from the agency.

**Administering Internal Operations: Managing Properties, Facilities, and Resources****SEMIANNUAL INVENTORY LISTS**

Disposition: PERMANENT RECORD. Retain in office (Code of Alabama 1975 § 36-16-8[1]).

**Transfer of State Property Forms (SD-1) (Agency copies)**

Disposition: Temporary Record. Retain 3 years after the end of the fiscal year in which the records were created.

**Property Inventory Cards and/or Computer Files**

Disposition: Temporary Record. Retain 3 years after the end of the fiscal year in which the items were removed from inventory.

**Receipts of Responsibility for Property**

Disposition: Temporary Record. Retain until return of item to property manager.

**Real Property Leasing/Renting Records**

Disposition: Temporary Record. Retain 6 years after expiration of the lease.

**Motor Pool Vehicle Use Records**

Disposition: Temporary Record. Retain 3 years after the end of the fiscal year in which the records were created.

**Insurance Policies/Risk Management Records**

Disposition: Temporary Record. Retain 6 years after termination of policy or membership.

**Building Maintenance Work Orders**

Disposition: Temporary Record. Retain 1 year.

## **Requirement and Recommendations for Implementing the Records Disposition Authority (RDA)**

Under the Code of Alabama 1975 § 41-13-21, “no state officer or agency head shall cause any state record to be destroyed or otherwise disposed of without first obtaining approval of the State Records Commission.” This Records Disposition Authority constitutes authorization by the State Records Commission for the disposition of the records of the Alabama State Board of Social Work Examiners (hereafter referred to as the agency) as stipulated in this document.

One condition of this authorization is that the agency submits an annual Records Disposition Authority Implementation Report on agency records management activities, including documentation of records destruction, to the State Records Commission in October of each year. In addition, the agency should make every effort to establish and maintain a quality record-keeping program through the following activities:

- The agency should designate a records liaison, who is responsible for: ensuring the development of quality record keeping systems that meet the business and legal needs of the agency, coordinating the transfer and destruction of records, ensuring that permanent records held on alternative storage media (such as microforms and digital imaging systems) are maintained in compliance with national and state standards, and ensuring the regular implementation of the agency’s approved RDA.
- Permanent records in the agency’s custody should be maintained under proper intellectual control and in an environment that will ensure their physical order and preservation.
- Destruction of temporary records, as authorized in this RDA, should occur agency-wide on a regular basis – for example, after the successful completion of an audit, at the end of an administration, or at the end of a fiscal year. Despite the RDA’s provisions, no record should be destroyed that is necessary to comply with requirements of the state Sunset Act, audit requirements, or any legal notice or subpoena.
- The agency should maintain full documentation of any computerized record-keeping system it employs. It should develop procedures for: (1) backing up all permanent records held in electronic format; (2) storing a back-up copy off-site; and (3) migrating all permanent records when the system is upgraded or replaced. If the agency maintains records solely in electronic format, it should employ an electronic records management system that is capable of tying retention and disposition instructions to records in the system and of purging temporary records when their retention periods expire. The agency is committed to funding any system upgrades and migration strategies necessary to ensure its records’ preservation and accessibility for the periods legally required.
- Electronic mail contains permanent, temporary, or transitory record information. Although e- mail records can be printed out, filed, and retained according to the RDA’s requirements, the division should preferably employ an electronic records management

system capable of sorting e-mail into folders and archiving messages having long-term value.

- The staff of the State Records Commission or the Examiners of Public Accounts may examine the condition of the permanent records maintained in the custody of the agency and inspect records destruction documentation. Government Records Division archivists are available to instruct the agency staff in RDA implementation and otherwise assist the agency in implementing its records management program.

The State Records Commission adopted this revision to the Records Disposition Authority on April 29, 2009.

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Edwin C. Bridges, Chairman, by Tracey Berezansky  
State Records Commission

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Date

Receipt acknowledged:

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Bernard Holden, Executive Director  
Alabama State Board of Social Work Examiners

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Date